

I claim:

1. A warning system, comprising:

- 5            a central control unit;  
          a plurality of local units connected to said central control unit;  
          each of said plurality of local units having a plurality of input trips and a  
          plurality of programmable responses thereto;  
          said plurality of programmable responses for each said local unit tailor able to  
10          meet the needs of a particular location; and,  
          said plurality of input trips including a disconnect trip indicating that said central  
          control unit has failed.

*Subj* 2. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:

- 15            said plurality of programmable responses including a warning output signal sent  
          from said local unit to said central control unit which indicates the presence of a local  
          emergency.

*Subj* 2. A warning system according to Claim 2, further including:

- 20            said warning output signal being sent when a loss of local unit power is  
          detected.

*Subj* 4. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:

- 25            said plurality of input trips including a smoke detector.

5. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:

- said plurality of input trips including an earthquake detector.

6. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:

- 30            said plurality of input trips including a motion detector.

7. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:  
said plurality of input trips including a noxious or poisonous gas detector.
8. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:  
said plurality of programmable responses including illumination of an emergency light.
9. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:  
10 said plurality of programmable responses including illumination of a strobe light.
10. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:  
said plurality of programmable responses including the broadcast of an audio message.
11. A warning system according to Claim 10, further including:  
15 said audio message being a verbal message that is broadcast in a plurality of different languages.
12. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:  
20 under non-emergency conditions, said central control unit broadcasting preselected audio to each of said local units.
13. A warning system according to Claim 12, further including:  
25 when one of said input trips is activated, said preselected audio is disconnected.
14. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:  
29 under emergency conditions, said central control unit allows for broadcasting at least one of (1) preselected audio, and (2) live voice instructions to at least one of said local units, of which no local trip has been tripped.

15. A warning system according to Claim 1, further including:

5        said plurality of programmable responses including a warning output signal sent from said local unit to said central control unit which indicates the presence of a local emergency;

10      said warning output signal being sent when a loss of local unit power is detected;

15      said plurality of input trips including a smoke detector;

20      said plurality of input trips including an earthquake detector;

25      said plurality of input trips including a motion detector;

30      said plurality of input trips including a noxious or poisonous gas detector;

light;

35      said plurality of programmable responses including illumination of a strobe light;

40      said plurality of programmable responses including the broadcast of an audio message;

45      under non-emergency conditions, said central control unit broadcasting preselected audio to each of said local units; and,

50      when one of said input trips is activated, said preselected audio is disconnected.

20      16. A warning system, comprising:

25      a central control unit;

30      a plurality of local units connected to said central control unit;

35      each of said plurality of local units including a plurality of input trips;

40      said input trips connected to control electronics;

45      said control electronics connected to a bypass relay;

50      said control electronics connected to a plurality of response devices;

55      said control electronics connected to a record/playback unit;

60      said record/playback unit connected to an amplifier;

65      said amplifier connected to a loudspeaker; and,

a battery pack connected to said plurality of input trips, said control electronics,  
and said amplifier.